

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FWISNER:BABS
APPROVED BY S/S:FWISNER
WHITE HOUSE:MR. WISE
NSC:MR. INDERFURTH
ARA/PAN:MR. HAAHR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112308

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT -- PANAMANIAN SCENARIO

1. GABRIEL LEWIS CALLED AT THE WHITE HOUSE MAY 1 TO SPELL
OUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL THOUGHTS ON A SCHEDULE FOR THE
PRESIDENT'S JUNE 16-17 STAY IN PANAMA. THE PROGRAM
PROPOSED BY LEWIS IS AS FOLLOWS:

JUNE 16

--ARRIVAL AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT;
--PRESIDENT PROCEEDS TO THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE WHERE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WILL BE
SEATED; HE AND GENERAL TORRIJOS EXCHANGE THE INSTRUMENTS
OF RATIFICATION AND MAKE BRIEF REMARKS;
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--PRESIDENT AND TORRIJOS LEAVE THE PALACE AND ADDRESS A
CROWD IN THE PLAZA;
--PRESIDENT AND TORRIJOS DEPART BY HELICOPTER FOR CONTADORA
ISLAND;
--BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN TORRIJOS, CARTER, AND PERHAPS
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LEADERS ON CONTADORA;
--FREE TIME;

--DINNER, FOLLOWED BY FOLKLORE DANCING;

--RON;

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--PRESIDENT AND TORRIJOS DEPART FOR TORRIJOS' BIRTHPLACE IN SANTIAGO AND ARE GREETED BY CROWD;

--PRESIDENT VISITS THE PANAMA CANAL AND THEREAFTER RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.

2. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO VISIT CONTADORA, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE FIRST DAY BE SPENT IN PANAMA CITY.

3. AFTER HEARING GABRIEL LEWIS OUT, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENTS STAFF, PHIL WISE, TOLD LEWIS THAT THE ROUGH SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WAS ACCEPTABLE; BUT NO FIRM DECISIONS COULD BE MADE UNTIL THE ADVANCE TEAM VISITED PANAMA. IN BRIEF, WISE AGREED TO (A) THE OPENING CEREMONY AND EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS, (B) A CROWD EVENT IN THE PLAZA, (C) MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER, GENERAL TORRIJOS, AND LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN VISITORS, AND (D) A CEREMONIAL DINNER. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, AFTER A TOUR OF SITES IN PANAMA AND THE CANAL, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RETURN TO THE U.S.

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4. FOREIGN VISITORS: LEWIS TOLD US THAT THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INVITE THE PRESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA, AND THE JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER. THE OUT-GOING PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA WOULD ALSO BE INVITED. WITH RESPECT TO THE MEXICAN, LEWIS ASKED THAT WE SOUND THEM OUT CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION. IF THE MEXICANS APPEAR INTERESTED, THE PANAMANIAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO INVITE THEM AND, INDEED, ANY OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS WE WISH TO SUGGEST.

5. PRE-ADVANCE: WE AGREED WITH LEWIS THAT A PRE-ADVANCE PARTY MADE UP OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICERS, NUMBERING ABOUT 30 PEOPLE, WOULD VISIT PANAMA, PERHAPS DURING THE LATTER HALF OF MAY. WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF MAY 17 AND 18, BUT THESE DATES WILL HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED.

6. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE SCHEDULE WHICH LEWIS DESCRIBED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

(A) IF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY REACHED PANAMA CITY AT

ABOUT 4:00 PM JUNE 16 AND DEPARTED EARLY AFTERNOON JUNE 17,
HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR EACH EVENT? YOU
SHOULD SUBMIT A DRAFT SCHEDULE.

(B) HOW MANY GUESTS COULD BE SEATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE
PALACE, AND HOW MANY WOULD THE PANAMANIAN PLAN TO INVITE?

(C) CAN THE PRESIDENT HELICOPTER FROM THE PLAZA TO
CONTADORA?

(D) WE ESTIMATE THE PRESIDENT'S ENTIRE PARTY, INCLUDING
PRESS, MAY BE AS LARGE AS 600. THE OFFICIAL PARTY AND
IMPORTANT GUESTS WOULD INCLUDE 200. ARE THERE ADEQUATE
HOTEL FACILITIES ON CONTADORA FOR A PARTY OF 200-250, AS
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WELL AS FOR WORKING SPACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEPART-
MENT OF STATE STAFFS?

(E) ARE COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRICAL POWER AND WATER
FACILITIES ON CONTADORA ADEQUATE?

(F) WHAT IS YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE COMBINED PANAMANIAN
AND SOUTHERN COMMAND HELICOPTER AND AIRCRAFT CAPACITY FOR
MOVING THE OFFICIAL PARTY AND SPECIAL GUESTS PLUS SOME
PRESS AND STAFF (200-250 INDIVIDUALS) AND THEIR BAGGAGE
FROM PANAMA CITY TO CONTADORA? WE WOULD EXPECT A REDUCED
PARTY TO VISIT SANTIAGO AND THE CANAL.

(G) WHAT IS THE DINING CAPACITY ON CONTADORA, AND HOW MANY
MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY WOULD THE PANAMANIAN GOVERN-
MENT PLAN TO FEED ON JUNE 16?

7. WOULD YOU PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR A TWO-HOUR PRESIDENTIAL
VISIT TO THE CANAL. YOUR SUGGESTIONS SHOULD INCLUDE A
POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRAVELING ON THE CANAL,
EITHER BY LAUNCH OR FREIGHTER, AND A VISIT TO LOCKS. THE
PRESIDENT WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF
THE CANAL. HE SHOULD SEE THE GIALARD CUT IF POSSIBLE.

8. PLEASE PROVIDE US YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE CLIMATE OF
OPINION AMONG ZONIAN AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW
THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MEET WITH THEM OR THEIR REPRESENTA-
TIVES.

9. WOULD YOU ALSO PROVIDE SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS WHERE
POSSIBLE OF THE PRINCIPLE SITES ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

10. GABRIEL LEWIS TOLD US THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
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RESERVED THE HOTEL ON CONTADORA ISLAND, THE EL PANAMA HOTEL AND THE HOLIDAY INN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STAY. YOU MIGHT DOUBLE CHECK THESE RESERVATIONS.

11. YOU MAY TAKE UP ANY OF THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS WITH THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ASSUME THE PANAMANIAN WILL

PROVIDE LEWIS WITH FURTHER DETAILS AS WELL. YOUR REPLY SHOULD BE SLUGGED FOR S/S AND AMBASSADOR POPPER. COPIES WILL BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

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